



Youth efforts recognized nationally



To celebrate three years of work on developmental assets, the Coalition for Youth last month sponsored a festive event, “Asset Building Under Construction”. Community members came together to recognize achievements and to celebrate people who help youth develop in a healthy way. Earlier in the month Hampton youth, community and city representatives accepted the Jostens “Our Town” award for Hampton’s Mobilization for Youth — an effort led by the Coalition to create building blocks that kids need to succeed. *Asset* magazine also recently featured Hampton as an Our Town Award recipient. The Coalition’s mobilization effort is one of four community initiatives nationwide chosen by Jostens Foundation and Search Institute for the award and a two-year \$20,000 grant. Hampton, like other Our Town honorees, is implementing programs based on a developmental-asset model developed by Search Institute known as Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth. The asset model is a framework of 40 positive experiences, relationships, opportunities and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. For information, e-mail foryouth@hampton.gov, or call the Coalition at 728-3280.

College offers degree in citizenship

Looking for a unique opportunity to learn, participate, contribute, and get to know your city? And it’s free! Hampton’s Neighborhood College is designed for anyone engaged in or curious about neighborhoods. Neighborhood College (Level One) offers citizens the opportunity to gain the knowledge needed for effective civic participation — including getting to know city and community leaders teaching the sessions. **Who:** Any citizen 16 years of age or older who lives or works in Hampton **When:** Winter session begins January 2002 **Where:** Kenneth Wallace Neighborhood Resource Center **Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Sessions:** Nine weekly sessions, usually on Thursdays Register today because class space is limited: www.hamptonvaneighborhoods.org/resources/college, or call 727-6460 for an application.



“The college has broadened my understanding of how our fair city operates. Also, I have learned to look at what I can do to improve my community and city rather than to look to the city for everything. As a result, I don’t ask what the city is doing, but rather, what I can do to help?” *Joseph P. Holland, District 10 Commissioner*

Ask 311!

Q. Why is the city constructing a new downtown office building to house school and city administrative staff, when that money could be used to improve the schools themselves? **A.** Instead of paying increasing rental costs in private space for city and school employees, the city will use that money to pay the debt on the \$13.4 million public office building. The building also will support the school administration’s decision to move out of Jones Magnet Middle School and convert that building back to its originally designed use as a school instead of building a new school estimated to cost about \$35 million. Funds being used for the new building are the same funds that are being used to pay existing leases. *Hampton’s 311 Customer Call Center will provide answers to frequently asked questions in this column of City Page. To reach the center, dial 3-1-1; on cell phones or outside of Hampton dial 727-8311.*



Hampton ranked as a digital city



Hampton has been ranked fourth in mid-size cities in the nation’s first study on digital technology in city government, the Digital Cities Survey. The survey, done by the Center for Digital Government and Government Technology magazine, examined how well cities are using information technology to deliver services to their citizens. More than 300 city government offices were invited to participate in the survey, which looked at the types of municipal services online, the forms that are available electronically, what information is offered to the public and how interactive a system is between the public and city officials. The survey also looked at information technology policies and operations, whether law enforcement uses the technology and what role GIS (Geographic Information Systems) play in those efforts. The city’s Web site, www.hampton.gov, offers many online forms, such as applications for city employment and certain permits.

Tune In!

Watch Unity Awards Banquet 2001 on The City Channel TV-47 at 6:30 p.m. daily. The 30-minute program is the Citizens’ Unity Commission annual recognition of individuals, organizations or community initiatives that help to foster healthy race relations in our community.

Teachers help show win Emmy

For the past two years, 12 teachers in the Hampton school division have worked with the producer of the NASA “Why Files” Lauren Yee. Now, the science series in which Hampton educators assisted with scriptwriting and providing technical assistance, has won a regional Emmy Award. The award was presented at the Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards which were held in Philadelphia last month. The show won in the category of Best Children’s Series. *Marie Smith, HCS Science Curriculum Leader notes that Hampton teachers’ involvement was key to receiving the award.*



Downtown steadily growing

Downtown Hampton’s gross receipts for 2000 increased six percent over 1999 for a total of almost \$175 million in gross receipts. Professional service businesses in particular are one of the fastest growing businesses in downtown, with a nine percent increase in gross receipts over the previous year. New buildings under construction downtown are expected to push gross receipts higher with an increase in potential customers for downtown businesses. The 117,000 square foot, seven-story city office building, which will house city and public school employees, is expected to open next summer. The 18,000 square foot Hampton History Museum, which will showcase the history of the almost four-century-old city, is expected to open in January 2003. The Downtown Hampton Development Partnership has a new program with incentives for leasing space in downtown. For information, call 727-1271, or visit www.downtownhampton.com.



Regional effort helps kids succeed

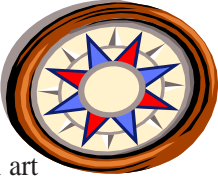
Did you know research states that, of every 100 children who leave first grade as poor readers, 88 still will be poor readers in fourth grade? And children who are reading poorly in fourth grade have a very low probability of achieving positive outcomes in school and in the workforce. What’s the answer? Square One is a regional initiative to help all children in Hampton Roads enter school healthy and ready to succeed and, ultimately, to provide the region with a competitive workforce in the global economy. The group recently announced the Hampton Roads Ready to Read Initiative - an effort to develop plans and actions that will increase the number of children who begin kindergarten ready to read. The Hampton Roads Ready to Read Initiative brings together four foundations, the United Way and nine localities to develop plans and actions to increase the number of children who begin kindergarten ready to read. The participating localities are: Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg/James City County and York County. For information, please contact Rebecca Fishkin at rfishkin@SqOne.org or (757) 552-0293. Or, go to www.sqone.org.



Calendar

TO JANUARY 19 Peninsula Glass Guild Exhibition

This popular exhibition features beautiful works in art glass including windows, two-and-three dimensional works and ornaments by members of the Peninsula Glass Guild. Charles H. Taylor Arts Center. Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 1-5 p.m., 727-1490.



DECEMBER 9 Holiday Concert

Daily Press/CANON, Virginia Holiday Gift to the Community featuring Virginia Symphony, Virginia Symphony Chorus, Virginia Children’s Chorus and the Hampton University Chorus. 3 p.m., no admission, free parking, Hampton Coliseum, 838-4203.

DECEMBER 10 Planning Commission

Regular meeting, 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6140.



Neighborhood Commission Regular meeting, 6 p.m., Kenneth Wallace Neighborhood Resource Center, 2315 Victoria Boulevard, 727-6460, www.hamptonvaneighborhoods.org.

DECEMBER 12 City Council

Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 727-6315. Agendas on Web site: hampton.gov/council. Meetings broadcast live; re-broadcasts Dec. 13 - 10 a.m., Dec. 15 - 3 p.m. on The City Channel TV-47.

DECEMBER 13 Citizens’ Unity Commission

Regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Unity Room, Carmel Center, 136 Kings Way, 727-1379, unity@hampton.gov.

DECEMBER 17 Youth Commission

Regular meeting, 7 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 728-3285, youthcom@hampton.gov.

DECEMBER 19 School Board Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Forum at Jones Magnet Middle School, 1819 Nickerson Blvd., 896-8107.

DECEMBER 20 Crystal Gayle Concert

The legendary Crystal Gayle brings her heartwarming Christmas show to The American Theatre for two performances. Her classic song, *Don’t It Make My Brown Eyes Blue*, was recently honored as one of the top ten most requested and played country songs of the 20th century! Crystal’s moving vocal style and her infectious onstage presence will make this a truly unforgettable evening. The American Theatre, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., 722-ARTS, www.hampton.gov/arts.



What makes Hampton a safe place to live?

How do Hampton’s crime rates compare to the region?

According to 2000 statistics, Hampton has one of the lowest crime rates in the region. Hampton ranks third lowest of the Hampton Roads cities. And, crime statistics have dropped over the past several years. Hampton’s overall crime rate dropped 23 percent between 1996 to 2000. Hampton residents feel safe too. A recent citizen survey indicated 91 percent of residents feel safe in their neighborhoods.



What is being done to keep Hampton a safe place to live, work and play?

“Community policing” is a partnership between police and the community to make Hampton safer. Hampton police firmly believe community policing efforts are a leading reason for the decline in city crime rates. Some of these efforts include: Police field offices, neighborhood watch, citizen and teen police academies, youth/community policing (working together in neighborhood problem solving), school resource officers, and a business watch program.

How do I report a crime?

An emergency or a crime in progress should always be reported to 911. If you believe an activity looks suspicious, this should be reported to Hampton Police at 727-6111. Both these numbers are operated round the clock.

How can I find out more about keeping Hampton a safe place?

Information is available on the Police Division’s Web site, www.hampton.gov/hpd, and through the Crime Prevention Office, 727-6574.

